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THREE NEOTROPICAL SPECIES OF PANDELETEIUS ON AVOCADO (CURCULIONIDAE, TANYMECINI)

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Three weevils of the genus *Pandeleteius* are pests of avocado in Costa Rica. One is a new species, and is described here and placed in a key with the other two species.

The three species agree with the description of the subgenus *Exmentypes* Voss (1954) in having the apex of the rostrum with an inter-antennal transverse sulcus, but they differ greatly from *Pandeleteius hieroglyphicus* Champ., the type species of *Exmentypes*, and hardly belong to that subgenus.

For the present the species have been retained in *Pandeleteius* (s. str.). More collecting and a study of all the Mexican, Central and South American *Pandeleteius* material should be undertaken before the genus is split into the numerous subgenera that appear to be required.

Key to Three Species of *Pandeleteius* Found on Avocado

1. Vestiture with a metallic luster; vestiture of glittering vari-colored scales; elytra maculate; anterior coxae well separated; tarsal claws connate at the base; elytral intervals without elevations. Length 7.25-8.80 mm. **erubescens** Champion
- Vestiture dull, without a metallic luster (2)
2. Anterior coxae well separated; tarsal claws free; elytral intervals 3, 5 and 7 raised, except on the disc anteriorly. Color uniformly white. Length 5.5-6 mm. **boops** Champion
- Anterior coxae very little separated; tarsal claws connate at the base; elytral intervals irregular, intervals 3, 4, 5, and 6 each with elevations, interval 7 raised. Color brown and tan. Length 5.5-7 mm. **pelodus**, n. sp.

***Pandeleteius pelodus*, n. sp.**

Elongate, slender. Length ♂, 5.5-6 mm; ♀, 7 mm. Body testaceous, shiny, antennae and tarsi lighter, apices of tarsal claws black; clothed with thick, tan and cocoa scales, those of head, rostrum, pronotum, disc of elytra and legs tan, the cocoa scales condensed into a lateral line behind each eye that extends to the base of the thorax, cocoa scales of the elytra not forming any definite pattern but blending into the tan scales,

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covering intervals 1 to 7 at the base, laterally extending to the apex of interval 7; scutellum with white shiny scales. Scales of rostrum, except apex in front of transverse sulcus, and pronotum, dense, of elytra sparse, especially laterally and toward the apex leaving polished areas; scales of ventral surface cream colored, iridescent, in contrast to the dull dorsal scales; pubescence of minute decumbent whitish setae, most prominent on the elytral declivity, above the eyes, and on the legs.

Rostrum stout, broader than long, apex emarginated, deeply canaliculate, and depressed medially, the median groove terminating anteriorly in an interantennal transverse sulcus; nasal plate small, triangular, not limited behind by a ridge; scrobes deep, angulate, descending, passing in front of the eye some distance from the eye. Antennae long and slender, with segment 2 of the funicle as long as 1, 3 to 7 decreasing slightly in length, club nearly as long as the scape, densely pubescent. Eyes prominent. Forehead convex. Thorax cylindrical, punctation hidden by the dense scale covering; vibrissae long, projecting from a knob. Elytra much broader than the thorax, widening beyond the middle, much more strongly so in the female, humeri prominent, acuminate and dehiscence at the apex, the interlocking lower margin of the suture exposed for a short distance, base convex from interval 1-5, coarsely punctate-striate, intervals very irregular, especially on the disc at the middle, interval 3 with two elevations, the median elevation the most prominent, behind this an oblong lower one, interval 5 raised from base to declivity, sometimes twice interrupted, interval 6 narrow, elevated at the declivity, interval 7 keeled entire length, more prominently

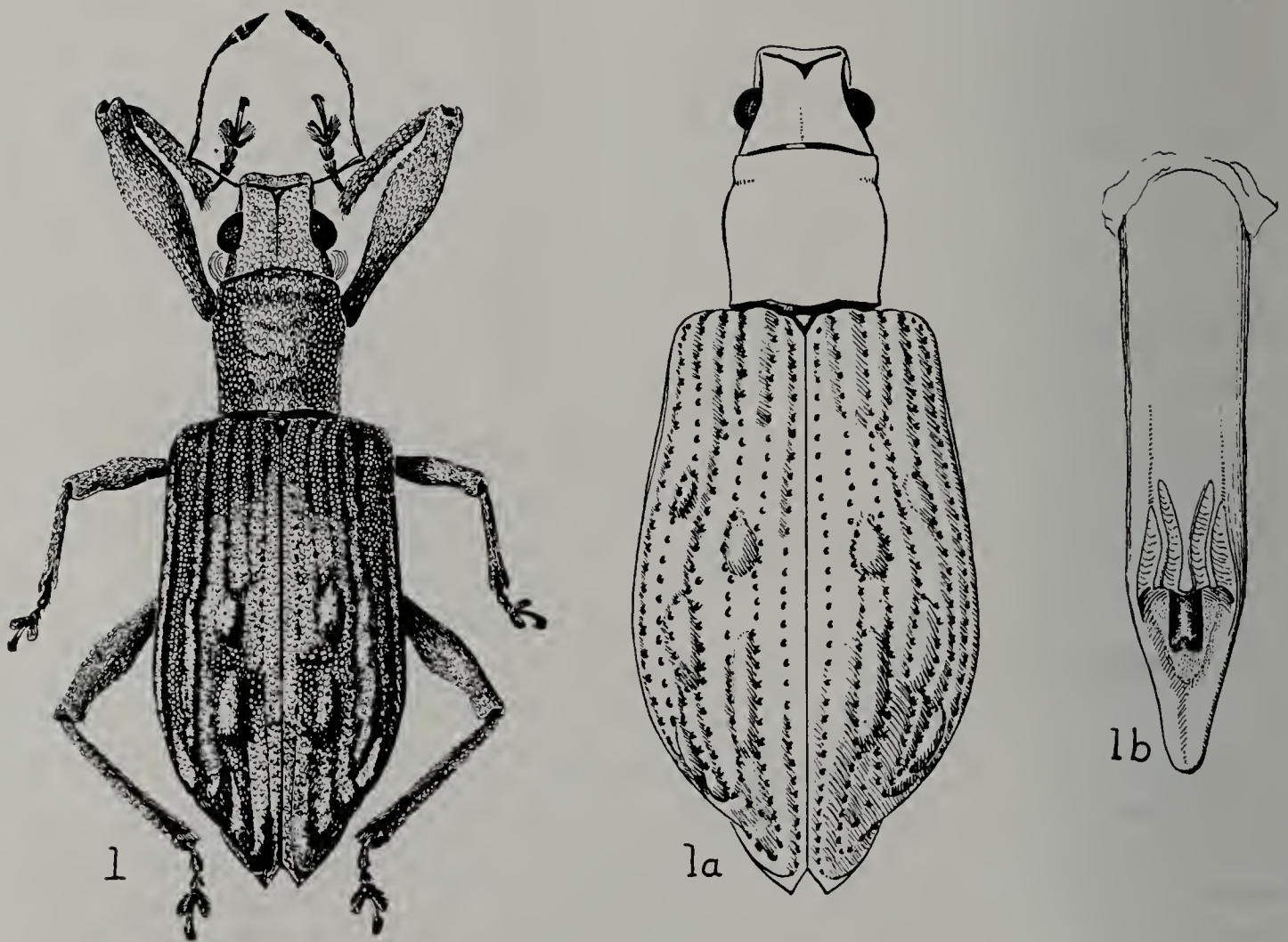


FIG. 1—Adult, ♂, *Pandeleteius pelodus*, n. sp. FIG. 1a—Adult, ♀, *Pandeleteius pelodus*, n. sp. FIG. 1b—Median lobe of aedeagus, *Pandeleteius pelodus*, n. sp.

so in the female. Anterior coxae narrowly separated. Legs slender, anterior pair elongated, anterior femora abruptly clavate, anterior tibiae gently curving in at the apex, sharply unguiculate and distinctly dentate; tarsal claws connate at the base.

Holotype male, U.S.N.M. no. 64650 and 7 paratypes (6 ♂♂, 1 ♀). Turrialba, Costa Rica, November 17, 1953, ex avocado, C. A. Fleschner, collector.

This species differs from the other two in the more approximate anterior coxae, the distribution of the elevations on the elytral intervals, and the cocoa scales which give the species a muddy appearance.

Representatives of *P. erubescens* and *P. boops* in the U. S. National collection are as follows:

***Pandeteius erubescens* Champion**

Pandeteius erubescens Champion (1911) *Biologica Centrali-Americana*, Ins., Coleop., Vol. 4, pt. 3, p. 188.

San José, Costa Rica, 1000-1200 m. 1-XII-25, Neverman, in garden, 1 ♀; Same, 1-X-25, 1 ♀ Blatt von *Acanistus arborescens*; Same, 9-11-38 (18, 11 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀), frisst Blatt, *Persea americana*; San Pedro de Montes de Oca, Costa Rica, 961, July 15, 1933 1 ♂, C. H. Ballou; Same, Nov. 18, 1933, 4 ♂♂, on *Persea americana*. The type locality of this beautiful insect is Savanillas de Pirris, Costa Rica.

***Pandeteius boops* Champion**

Pandeteius boops Champion (1911) *Biologica Centrali-Americana*, Ins., Coleop., Vol. 4, Pt. 3, p. 189.

San Pedro de Montes de Oca, Costa Rica, 3934, C. H. Ballou, Dec. 30, 1935, on *Persea gratissima* —1 ♀. The type locality of this species is Panama, Volcan de Chiriqui 4000 feet.

A NEW LOCALITY RECORD FOR *LYTTA VIRIDANA* LeCONTE (Meloidae)

Among a collection of Arizona Meloidae sent to me for identification by Dr. John S. Garth of the Allan Hancock Foundation (University of Southern California) was a series of *Lytta viridana* LeConte. These specimens were collected by the Allan Hancock Foundation in the San Francisco Mountains north of Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona, July 2, 1947, on *Iris missouriensis* Nutt. This is a new locality record for this species, as it is unrecorded from this state.—KEITH W. RADFORD, Department of Entomology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.